

## U. S. Department of Justice

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## FEDERAL BUREAU

*of*

## INVESTIGATION

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	DATE <b>1/12/70</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>1/7/70</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>JAMES PAUL BROWN, aka; ROBERT L. SHELLEY; Police Officers, York, Pa., Police Department; MICHAEL CRONAN, aka - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>NORMAN A. HENDRICKS</b>	TYPED BY <b>rel</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>DENIAL OF POLICE PROTECTION - CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	

## REFERENCE

Report of SA JOHN R. WINEBERG 12/15/69 at Philadelphia;  
Report of SA JOHN C. CONNORS 12/17/69 at Boston.

- C -

A\*  
COVER PAGE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED <b>NONE</b>						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
APPROVED  COPIES MADE: <b>(2) - Bureau</b> <b>1- USA, MDPA (JA)</b> <b>1- Philadelphia (44-1707)</b>						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW  <b>44-44139-7</b> <b>1 JAN 18 1970</b> <b>REC-30</b>	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency	<b>CRD</b>						
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.	<b>1-14-70</b>						
How Fwd.	<b>6-94(G)</b>						
By	<b>56 JAN 21 1970</b>						

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1- USA, MDPA (JA)

Report of: NORMAN A. HENDRICKS  
Date: January 12, 1970

Office: PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Field Office File #: 44-1707

Bureau File #:

Title: JAMES PAUL BROWN; ROBERT L. SHELLEY;  
POLICE OFFICERS, YORK, PA., POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
MICHAEL CRONAN - VICTIM

Character: DENIAL OF POLICE PROTECTION - CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: AUSA JULIUS ALTMAN, MDPA, Scranton, Pa., gave advisory opinion on 1/7/70 in which he stated that he did not feel that prosecution in this matter could be sustained successfully inasmuch as the allegation of denial of police protection of victim, MICHAEL CRONAN, was unsubstantiated through interview of victim, himself, police other than subjects, and civilians.

- C -

DETAILS: On January 7, 1970, Assistant U.S. Attorney JULIUS ALTMAN, Middle District of Pennsylvania, Scranton, Pa., gave an advisory opinion in this matter in which he stated that the original allegation that the victim, MICHAEL CRONAN, was denied police protection by York Police Officers JAMES PAUL BROWN and ROBERT L. SHELLEY, was not substantiated through interview of the victim, himself, police officers of the York, Pa., Police Department, other than the subjects, and civilians, he did not believe that prosecution in this matter could be successfully sustained in federal court.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	DATE <b>12/15/69</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/8 - 12/12/69</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>CHANGED</b> <b>JAMES PAUL BROWN, aka Jim;</b> <b>ROBERT L. SHELLEY;</b> <b>Police Officers, York, Pa.,</b> <b>Police Department;</b> <b>MICHAEL CRONAN, aka Michael Cronin</b> <b>VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>JOHN R. WINEBERG</b>	TYPED BY <b>kam/mlb</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>Denial of Police Protection -</b> <b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	

Title is marked changed to show full names of subjects and correct name of victim.

REFERENCES

Bureau airtel to Philadelphia, 12/4/69.  
Philadelphia airtel to Bureau, 12/8/69.

- P -

LEADS

BOSTON:

AT BOSTON, MASS.

Upon receipt of victim's address from Detroit Office will locate and interview victim as set out in Detroit airtel to Bureau, 12/12/69, and Philadelphia airtel

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:		44-44139-	6
2 - Bureau		23	
2 - Boston		8 DEC 18 1969	
1 - USA, MDPA			
2 - Philadelphia (44-1707)			
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		Notations	
Agency	CRA	STAT. SECT.	
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.	12-19-69		
How Fwd.	6-24(8) 156		
By	993-22		

56 JAN 13 1970

PH 44-1707

to Bureau, 12/8/69.

PHILADELPHIA:

AT SCRANTON, PA.

After victim is interviewed, will obtain opinion  
of USA, MDPA.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

All persons interviewed were advised at the  
outset that this investigation is being conducted at the  
express instruction of JERRIS LEONARD, Assistant Attorney  
General of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of  
Justice.

The information at the York Hospital was obtained  
from DAVID STEPHENSON; Administrative Assistant by SA JOHN  
WILLIAM DAANE.

- B\* -  
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, MDPA

Report of: JOHN R. WINEBERG  
Date: December 15, 1969

Office: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Field Office File #: 44-1707

Bureau File #:

Title: JAMES PAUL BROWN; ROBERT L. SHELLY;  
Police Officers, York, Pa., Police Department;  
MICHAEL CRONAN - VICTIM

Character: DENIAL OF POLICE PROTECTION - CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: York, Pa., Police Department records reflect that at 12:20 a.m., 7/30/69, Patrolman JOHN CRISSAMORE requested aid for a man being assaulted in 300 block West Market Street. One car was dispatched to scene; current policy is that other units not actively engaged would join them. Records show MIKE CRONAN was taken to a hospital by car #21, Officers HELM and MC MASTER. Hospital records set forth. Policemen witnesses state they saw scuffling from next block and proceeded immediately to scene of fight. One suspect was caught by police but could not be identified so was released. Policemen subjects state they were about four blocks away when they heard the radio call for assistance and proceeded to scene where victim CRONAN was found. Later when leaving Ramona Restaurant where they had coffee, Officer JAMES P. BROWN heard a white male named FLICKINGER saying, "I loved it," several times. He believed FLICKINGER was talking about the assault upon CRONAN so warned him such action could lead to charges of assault and battery. Two neighborhood witnesses state no police car was parked in the used car lot of Dolly Pontiac at the time victim was assaulted.

- P -

## DETAILS:

At York, Pa.

This is a preliminary report.

PH 44-1707

LEONARD L. LANDIS, Chief of Police, York Police Department, York, Pa., was advised on December 8, 1969, that an investigation of an alleged violation of civil rights by members of his force would be made.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/10/69

Sterling Frederick Flickinger, RD #1, New Oxford, Pa., permanent address c/o his mother, DOROTHY GREEN, 508 West King Street, York, Pa., furnished the following information regarding the assault on MICHAEL J. CRONAN, former news reporter for the Gazette and Daily, at York, Pa., on July 30, 1969.

FLICKINGER said that about 9:30 to 10 p.m., in the early evening of July 29, 1969, he had been in an automobile with five youths, one of whom was a member of the Newberry Street Boys. He refused to identify these boys even though he knew them all because he said that he did not want to give conflicting information to that which he gave in testimony in a Federal Court hearing in Harrisburg, Pa., on August 14, 1969. At the hearing regarding police activity in the city of York, Pa., during the riots of July 1969, FLICKINGER said he did not recall whether or not he had told the court the names of the other five boys were unknown to him or if he had not been asked as to their identities.

Sometime later about 11:30 or 12 midnight the group decided to go downtown to get something to eat. They left the area of North Street and Newberry Street and went towards the center of town. They drove south on Newberry Street and then turned east on Market Street. In the 300 block of West Market Street, the group saw the Gazette and Daily reporter, MIKE CRONAN. FLICKINGER said that several days earlier CRONAN had interviewed about 15 of the Newberry Street Boys about their feelings, action and desires, etc., regarding the civil disorders in the city. The boys felt that CRONAN had misquoted them so as not to present their true views in the story that he wrote. The boys in the car with FLICKINGER wanted to get CRONAN and give him a "going over" for his misrepresentation of their views. FLICKINGER refused to say what the boys had told CRONAN during the interviews and how this differed from what had been printed in the paper.

They decided to get him and "beat him up." He

On 12/10/69 at New Oxford, Pa. File # Philadelphia 44-1707

SAs JOHN R. WINBERG and  
by JOHN WILLIAM DAANE JRW/kam Date dictated 12/10/69

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PH 44-1707

was on the southeast corner of Newberry and Market Streets when they saw him walking east on the south side of the street. FLICKINGER said they drove around the block and parked the car, (not his car), on North Penn Street behind the Dutch Kitchen Restaurant. They all then ent to Market Street and headed east with three boys on each side of the street.

He was on the south side of Market Street and saw a red and white police cruiser pull up and park near Market Street in the Dolly Pontiac Used Car Parking lot. The car extinguished its lights. He advised he saw the car and thought the others did too. He went back west on Market Street to the building adjacent to the Dolly Pontiac parking lot just out of sight of the police cruiser. He went just a few steps up the street so he could not see or be seen by the police car.

The other five boys he had been with stopped CRONAN as he was crossing the street and assaulted him. They knocked him down and kicked him. FLICKINGER peeked around the corner at the police car and saw they did not get out of their car and the doors were closed. They could look out the front window and see the struggle in the street. He estimated that the struggle in the street with CRONAN and the five boys lasted three to five minutes.

The next thing he saw was the five boys in the street run through the Dolly Pontiac lot past the front of the police cruiser. Before they got to the back of the lot they turned around and came running back through the lot. About this time Officer SHELLEY, (he is a former neighbor), and another officer, he later learned was BROWN, got out of the police car.

FLICKINGER then ran west on Market Street up to Penn Street. He stopped and turned to look back down the street to see what was going on and heard a shot while he was running. He saw from the corner that a patrolman was chasing two boys around the corner of the building on the west side of the Dolly Pontiac used car lot. The officer had his pistol drawn and was within three steps of the two boys.

He said he turned around and ran north on Penn to the C & C Diner and went in and stayed in the men's room for several minutes.

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He peeked out the front door until he saw his friends return to the car they had parked near the Dutch Kitchen. They picked the fifth boy up at the corner of Newberry and Market Streets.

After they got into the car, FLICKINGER said one of the boys said he had been caught by the police after running from CRONAN and had been handcuffed. He advised he was released when he told the officer he was from the Newberry Street boys and was for "whitepower." Three other of the boys from their conversation in the car showed they had been in conversation with the police immediately after the incident but had not been arrested or held for taking part in the beating of CRONAN. They all went to the York Hospital because one of the boys had tried to open a bottle of beer with his teeth and had cut his mouth badly so that it was bleeding and they also wanted to see what kind of condition that CRONAN was in. They talked to CRONAN and he did not recognize any of the boys that had "beat him up."

The boys left the hospital and went back to Newberry Street where they dispersed. FLICKINGER left them and wound up at the Ramona Restaurant on North George Street for a cup of coffee.

He said he was wearing a "Newberry Street Boys" jacket out in front of the Ramona Restaurant; Officer BROWN of the York Police Department asked him if he had heard about CRONAN being "beat up." He told Officer BROWN that he had heard about the beating. BROWN said that the Newberry Street Boys should do a better job the next time. FLICKINGER said he asked BROWN if he had known about the beating and BROWN told him that he had seen it from his police cruiser. When FLICKINGER asked him why he hadn't done anything about chasing and catching the guys that had done it, BROWN told him that it was all right to "beat up" CRONAN but that when the boys ran through the Dolly Pontiac lot that BROWN had to put on a little "show" of chase for the neighbors who had collected.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/15/69

LEONARD L. LANDIS, Chief of Police, York City Police Department, advised that a search of his records failed to locate any investigative report concerning the assault on MICHAEL J. CRONAN on July 30, 1969. Records of the department do reflect that at 12:20 a.m., Patrolman JOHN CRISSAMORE requested aid for a man being assaulted in the 300 block of West Market Street and car one was immediately dispatched to the scene. Due to the recent civil disorders in town all available units would also respond to a call of this nature in the event any help was needed. The records also reflect that MIKE CRONAN, 308 West Market Street was taken to the York Hospital in car 21 by officers DONALD HELM and DENNIS MC MASTER.

The records reflect that officers ROBERT L. SHELLY and JAMES P. BROWN were assigned to car three, which is known as the "Center east car" as it patrols on the East side of town closest to the center of the city. At 11:55 p.m., July 29, 1969, this car was given the assignment to check a vehicle at Philadelphia and Broad Streets and at 12:50 a.m., July 30, 1969, the assignment to transport a Mr. RALEIGH, 507 South George Street, to the York Hospital.

On 12/9/69 at York, Pa. File # Philadelphia 44-1707  
SAs JOHN R. WINEBERG and  
by JOHN WILLIAM DAANE JRW/kam Date dictated 12/11/69

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/15/69

The following was ascertained from the records of the York Hospital, 1001 South George Street.

FOIA(b)(7) - (C)

FOIA(b)(6)

MICHAEL J. CRONAN, Social Security Number [redacted] age 24, was admitted to the emergency room at 12:25 a.m., July 30, 1969, being brought there in a cruiser of the York City Police Department. The history reflects that 15 minutes earlier he had been struck with shoes about the head, right arm, right interior chest and mouth. He had some dizziness but no unconsciousness. He had minimal bitemporal headache and some pain in his arm and lip. He was orientated and alert.

[redacted]

[redacted] the examining physician was listed as Doctor LEON REINSTEIN, M.D.

CRONAN was discharged at 2 a.m., July 30, 1969, and referred to Doctor EDWIN A. RIVERA if further treatment required.

CRONAN indicated at time of admittance that he had group insurance with the Gazette and Daily newspaper in York, Pa.

The above information is confidential and can be made public only through the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum. Such a subpoena should be issued to Mrs. BETTY JANE NEELY, Medical Records, Librarian, York Hospital, 1001 South George Street, York, Pa., 17403.

On 12/9/69 at York, Pa.File # Philadelphia 44-1707by JOHN WILLIAM DAANE

kam

Date dictated 12/11/69

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RONALD ELIST, Patrolman, York City Police Department, furnished the following information when interviewed:

On the night of July 29 - 30, 1969, he was working the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift. Shortly after midnight he was standing in front of the Vigilant Firehouse at 267 West Market Street with officers EDWARD BOWERS and JOHN CRISSAMORE. BOWERS said something about a fight going on in the next block west on Market Street and the three of them started running towards the fight. As he recalled it he saw seven or eight youths in the middle of the street. When they reached Newberry Street he heard what he thought was a shot and all participants of the fight scattered and ran. He continued towards the area and about the time he arrived there he saw officers ROBERT SHELLY and JIM BROWN bring their car to a stop and jump out. He could not recall where their car had come from, however, they were stopped by the front of the lot of Dolly's Pontiac garage.

When the participants of the fight scattered some ran west on Market Street and some ran through the lot of Dolly's Pontiac. Officer BOWERS apprehended an individual on the lot at Dolly's, however, when he brought him back to the scene nobody was able to identify him so he had to be released.

When he arrived at the scene, the man who had been assaulted was lying in the street. This man was placed in one of the cruiser cars and taken to the York Hospital. He later learned that this man was MICHAEL SHONAN, a reporter for the Gazette and Daily newspaper.

On 12/9/69 at York, Pa. File # Philadelphia 44-1707

SAs JOHN R. WINBERG and  
by JOHN WILLIAM DAANE JRW/kam Date dictated 12/11/69

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/15/69

JOHN CRISAMORE, Patrolman, York City Police Department, furnished the following information when interviewed:

On the night of July 29 - 30, 1969, he was working the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift. Shortly after midnight he was standing in front of the Vigilant Firehouse located at 267 West Market Street talking with EDWARD BOWERS and RONALD HEIST, both officers with the department. BOWERS stated that there was a fight going on up in the 300 block of Market Street and the three of them started running toward the fight. He then noticed what looked like a small group swinging somebody around in the street. By the time they arrived at Newberry Street, the fight ended and could not have lasted over thirty seconds. At this point four or five individuals ran from the fight with some going west on Market Street and others going through the lot of Doll's Pontiac. As he left the vicinity of the firehouse, he called headquarters for assistance on his walkie-talkie radio. Due to the recent civil disorders in the city, all cars answered all calls indicating anything of a violent nature. He saw no other police in the area until he arrived at the scene and by then there were four police cars there.

When he arrived at the scene he saw a man lying in the middle of the street and later learned that he was MICHAEL CRONAN a reporter for the Gazette and Daily Newspaper.

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On 12/9/69 at YORK, PA. File # PHILADELPHIA 41-1707  
 by SA JOHN R. WINEBERG and  
SA JOHN WILLIAM DAANE JTW/mlb Date dictated 12/11/69

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/15/69

EDWARD I. BOWERS, 713 South Duke Street, Patrolman, York City Police Department, furnished the following information when interviewed:

On the night of July 29 - 30, 1969, he was assigned to the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift on foot patrol with Officer JOHN CRISSAMORE. Shortly after midnight he and CRISSAMORE were in front of the Vigilant Firehouse at 267 West Market Street talking to Officer RONALD HEIST who had come by. Earlier, he had noticed a group of individuals on Market Street whom he felt may cause trouble and periodically he checked to see what they were doing. He happened to glance west on Market Street and saw a commotion going on towards the middle of the 300 block. It appeared as if a couple of guys had a third individual by the arm and were swinging him around in a circle. There were five or six other individuals standing just outside of where he was being swung and they would hit at him as he went passed them. He immediately called the attention of CRISSAMORE and HEIST to the action and all of them started running towards the scene. About this time CRISSAMORE called headquarters on his radio and asked for help.

As they reached Newberry Street, he heard what he thought was a shot. The individuals started to scatter so he went north on Newberry Street to the first alley and then west on the alley to the rear entrance to the lot of Doll's Pontiac Garage. As he entered the lot he apprehended a white male who he took back to the scene, however, he was released as it was impossible to identify him as one who had been assaulting the man in the street.

When he turned north on Newberry Street, he did not see any police cars in the area, however, when he came to the front of the lot at Doll's he saw four policemen there. When he arrived there, Officer ROBERT SHEELY was over checking on the man lying in the street and Officer JAMES BROWN was chasing some individuals west on Market Street. He believed that Officer BROWN caught one of the individuals, however, this

On 12/10/69 at YORK, PA. File # PHILADELPHIA 100-1707

by SA JOHN WILLIAM DAAKE and  
SA JOHN R. WINBERG JRW/mlb Date dictated 12/11/69

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individual was also released as he could not be identified. To the best of his knowledge the identity of the individuals who had been apprehended had not been learned and recorded as they had been released.

At this point he saw that the man in the street was NICH CRONAN, a reporter for the local Gazette and Daily Newspaper. He also noticed that CRONAN's eye glasses were completely smashed and lying about 12 feet from him in the street. The glasses were so badly smashed he figured they had either been stepped on or run over by an automobile.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/15/69

JAMES PAUL BROWN, Patrolman, York City Police Department, was furnished with a form entitled "Interrogation: Advice of Rights" by SA JOHN R. WINEBERG. He read and stated he understood this form. BROWN signed the waiver of these rights at the bottom of the form. He then furnished the following information:

He recalled going to the scene when MICHAEL CRONAN, a reporter for the Gazette and Daily, was assaulted in the 300 block of West Market Street. On that night, he was working the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift and was assigned to a patrol car with Officer ROBERT SHELLY. This car was assigned to patrol the center East area, being the East side of town close to the center of the city.

Between midnight and 1 a.m., when they are on this shift, they usually stop at the Ramona Restaurant for a cup of coffee or a sandwich. On the night in question, they were traveling west on Philadelphia Street, someplace in the vicinity of North George Street, when they received a call on the radio that a man was being assaulted in the 300 block of West Market Street. As they were not on an assignment at the time and were only about four blocks from the scene, they immediately sped to the scene. They traveled west on West Philadelphia Street to North Newberry Street, turned left on Newberry Street to Market Street, where they made a right turn and traveled west on West Market Street against the flow of traffic. It was only a short distance to the scene as the man who had been assaulted was approximately in front of Doll's Pontiac Garage in the center to north lane of traffic. SHELLY, who was driving, stopped the car near the man and BROWN immediately jumped out and started chasing some individuals he saw running and he chased them around the corner and north on North Penn Street. When they first arrived there was another cruiser car also pulling up to the man in the street from the west.

When he came back to the scene from the chase

On 12/9/69 at YORK, PA. File # PHILADELPHIA 44-1707  
by SA JOHN R. WINEBERG and  
SA JOHN WILLIAM DAANE JRW/nlb Date dictated 12/12/69

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he learned that it was MICHAEL CRONAN who had been assaulted. CRONAN was then placed in a cruiser car and taken to the York Hospital.

BROWN was unable to recall receiving the call to check a vehicle at the intersection of Broad and Philadelphia Streets or what the disposition of the matter had been (this assignment is noted in Police records above). He did recall that shortly after the CRONAN incident, he and Officer SHELLY transported a man to the York Hospital from South George Street and at the time they were at the hospital he saw CRONAN there telephoning the story of the assault to his newspaper.

A short time later he and SHELLY stopped at the Ramona Restaurant for coffee and as they were leaving, he overheard a young white male saying, "I loved it" two or three times. From the conversation, he understood the boy meant he and others had beat CRONAN and that they would do it again. He warned this individual that such actions could lead to charges of assault and battery and he left. At the time, he did not know the identity of this individual, however, he later learned that his name was FLICKINGER. He has not talked with him since that time and has only seen him on the street while he was riding in the patrol car.

BROWN did not wish to furnish a signed statement concerning the above at this time.

The following description was obtained at the time of the interview:

Race	White	
Sex	Male	
Date of birth	[REDACTED]	FOIA(b) (7) - (C)
Place of birth	York, Pa.	FOIA(b) (6)
Height	68" tall	
Weight	170 pounds	
Hair	Black	
Eyes	Brown	
Complexion	Medium	
Residence	209 Jefferson Avenue, York, Pa.	
Education	High school	

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/16/69

ROBERT L. SHELLY, Patrolman, York City Police Department, was furnished with a form entitled "Interrogation: Advice of Rights" form by SA JOHN R. WINEBERG. He read and stated he understood the information on the form. He then signed the waiver of rights at the bottom of the form. He then furnished the following information:

On the night MICHAEL CRONAN, a reporter for the Gazette and Daily was assaulted, he was working the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift and assigned to a patrol car with Officer JAMES BROWN. This car was assigned to patrol the center east area, which is the east side of town close to the center of the city. When working this shift, they usually stop for coffee at the Ramona Restaurant on North George Street between midnight and 1 a.m.

On the night in question, they were traveling west on Philadelphia Street around George Street or Beaver Street when they received a call that a man was being assaulted in the 300 block of West Market Street. At the time they received the call, they were not on any assignment and only a few blocks from the assault, so they sped to the scene. He was driving and he drove west on Philadelphia Street, where he turned south on North Newberry Street. He went south to Market Street where he made a right turn and traveled west on Market Street the short distance to where the man was down in the street. He drove close to where the man was down and went to his assistance. At this time, BROWN jumped from the car and chased some individuals they had seen fleeing from the scene. As he recalls it, there were three or four individuals running from the scene when they arrived. He estimated that it took them around one to one and one half minutes to reach the scene from the time they had received the call on the radio. When they first arrived, he saw a couple of the patrol cars and some officers on foot also arriving.

He went over to where the man was down and noticed that it was MICHAEL CRONAN of the Gazette and Daily and then

On 12/10/69 at YORK, PA. File # PHILADELPHIA 44-1707

by SA JOHN R. WINEBERG: and  
SA JOHN WILLIAM DAME JRW/mlb Date dictated 12/12/69

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assisted other officers in placing him in a patrol car to be transported to the York Hospital.

Shortly after this incident, they received a call to transport another man to the York Hospital and while they were there, he saw CRONAN on the telephone calling his story in to his newspaper.

Later he and Officer BROWN stopped at the Romana Restaurant for coffee. As they were leaving, BROWN stopped and talked briefly with an individual whom he later learned was FLICKINGER.

SHELLY did not wish to furnish a signed statement at this time.

The following description was obtained at the time of the interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	February 24, 1925
Place of birth	York, Pa.
Height	6' tall
Weight	160 pounds
Build	Slim
Eyes	Brown (glasses)
Hair	Dark, turning grey
Residence	24 South Lee Street, York, Pa.
Marital status	Married, wife ELAINE J.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/16/69

JOHN TAUGHENBAUGH, 334 West Market Street, furnished the following information when interviewed:

He is employed at the Caterpillar Tractor Company and normally leaves work at 11:24 p.m. He normally arrives home between 11:40 and 11:45 p.m., each day.

He recalls the commotion on the night the reporter for the Gazette and Daily was assaulted on the street in the 300 block of West Market Street. He was able to place this as the incident as he read an account of it in the newspaper the next morning.

Around midnight that night, he heard voices talking and looked out of the bay window of his second floor apartment. This bay window overlooks Market Street and he is able to see clearly for at least one block both east and west on the street. He was unable to see anyone at this time as apparently there were two men talking directly beneath his open window. At this time he glanced in both directions on the street and he does not recall seeing any individuals on the street. At this time there was no police car parked in the lot of Dell's Pontiac Garage, which is only slightly west of his apartment and across the street.

A couple of minutes later he again heard some hollering on the street and his wife, who went to the window this time, stated it was nothing but a couple of kids hollering.

A few minutes after this, he heard another commotion followed by a noise which sounded like a shot from a small caliber gun and the shout "white power." He then ran to the window and immediately looked both east and west on the street. Slightly west of his apartment he noticed the reporter for the Gazette and Daily on his feet in the southernmost lane of traffic going down on his knees then put his hands down on the roadway and roll down on his stomach. As he stretched on the roadway, he looked first to

On 12/9/69 at YORK, PA.File # PHILADELPHIA 44-1707by SA JOHN A. WINSTINE and  
SA JOHN WILLIAM DAANE

JRW/mlb

Date dictated 12/11/69

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the east and then to the west and cradled his head on his arm. At this time, he thought he saw something on the side of his face but later felt it was the side piece of his glasses. He stated he recognized the reporter as he had lived in the neighborhood for sometime and had seen him on the street, however, he did not know his name until he read it in the newspaper the next morning.

When he looked out the window, he did not see any police cars in the area at the time and definitely there was no police car parked in the lot of Doll's Pontiac.

At about the time the reporter stretched out on the roadway, the traffic light at the intersection of Penn Street and West Market Street changed from red to green for the eastbound traffic on Market Street. The cars waiting at the light were about five deep in all three lanes. The reporter continued to lay in the street and one of the cars actually squealed his tires slightly stopping to avoid hitting the reporter. The driver of the car hollered at the man in the street, however, he received no answer. A couple more cars approached the area scene and these were immediately followed by a police car. This police car, which was traveling east on Market Street, pulled right up to the man on the street to protect him from any oncoming vehicles. He was not certain if this police car had come from Market Street west of Penn Street or if it had entered Market Street from Penn Street. At approximately the same time, he saw two uniformed policemen running west on Market Street from Newberry Street with their guns in their hands. As they reached the scene, another police car came in from the west on Market Street and the white police car came through Doll's lot from the rear alley. He was almost certain this car had traveled west up the alley behind Doll's and then swung into the lot at the rear as he could see the light from the headlights coming from that direction.

At the time he first saw the reporter in the street, he noticed a white male in his early 20's, slender build, approximately 5' 10" tall standing there with his hands in his pockets watching the reporter in the street. He started walking west on Market Street and when he saw the officers coming from the east he started running and went through Doll's lot. This is the same individual who was apprehended by one of the policemen and later released. Also there

PH 44-1707

were two men standing in front of the Rescue Mission further west on Market Street, however, they apparently only took a look and went inside the mission. He could not further describe these individuals.

Shortly after the police arrived, a small crowd gathered, however, he could not identify any of these people and he has not heard any of his neighbors mentioned observing the incident.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/16/69

Mrs. JOHN TAUGHENBAUGH, 334 West Market Street, furnished the following information when interviewed:

She recalled that at 12:20 a.m., on the night the reporter for the Gazette and Daily was assaulted in front of her apartment, she heard a commotion out in the street. She was able to place the date by the fact she read of the assault in the newspaper the next morning.

Earlier during the night, she had heard noises in the street and had looked out of the bay window of their apartment, which is on the second floor. Just a few minutes before the reporter was assaulted, she had looked out the window as she had heard loud voices and at the time had not seen any police cars in the area. She stated she lives almost across from Doll's Pontiac Garage and is able to see the used car lot just west of the main building. At no time did she see any police cruiser parked in this lot.

At the time of the assault of the reporter, she had not gone to the window immediately and when she did look out the window, a police car was coming east on Market Street. Another was coming west on Market Street, against the flow of traffic, and one through the lot next to Doll's from the alley at the rear. She did not recall seeing any other persons in the area.

On 12/9/69 at YORK, PA.File # PHILADELPHIA 44-1707by SA JOHN R. WINEBERG and  
SA JOHN WILLIAM DAANE

JRW/mib

Date dictated 12/11/69

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PH 44-1707

On December 11, 1969, Mrs. JOE FLORENCE, 338 West Market Street and Mrs. DAVID LAMORA, 344 West Market Street, advised that they had not seen any of the activity involving the beating of a newspaper reporter on Market Street on the night of July 30, 1969, however, they had read about it the next day in the paper. They also said that in talking with neighbors after the event, none of them had seen it either.

On December 11, 1969, GERRY KRAMER, 340 West Market Street, City Floors, advised that his business was closed during the hours that the assault of the news reporter took place in front of his store. He stated also that he owns two apartment buildings in the block and that in contact with his tenants, none of them had said anything about seeing the fracas involving the reporter.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>BOSTON</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	DATE <b>12/17/69</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/16/69</b>
TITLE OF CASE (FNU) <sup>gh</sup> SHELLEY, (FNU) <sup>gh</sup> BROWN, POLICE OFFICERS, SUBJECTS, YORK, PENNSYLVANIA; MICHAEL CRONIN - VICTIM; DENIAL OF POLICE PROTECTION		REPORT MADE BY <b>JOHN C. CONNORS (A)</b>	TYPED BY <b>nrg</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>  <i>PPP</i> <i>sd</i>	

REFERENCES: Philadelphia airtels to Bureau dated 12/8 and 12/12/69.  
Detroit teletype dated 12/16/69.

- RUC -

- A\* -  
COVER PAGE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						None	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:		44-44139-5	REC 13
2 - Bureau		DEC 19 1969	EX-102
2 - Philadelphia (44-1707)		<i>[Signature]</i>	
1 - Boston (44-779)		<i>[Signature]</i>	
1 cc: CIP		Notations	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		STAT. SECT.	
Agency	CIP		
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.	12-22-69		
How Fwd.	6940 148		
By	59 JAN 12 1970		

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: SA(A) JOHN C. CONNORS  
Date: 12/17/69

Office: Boston, Massachusetts

Field Office File #: 44-779

Bureau File #:

Title: (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) SHELLEY,  
(FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) BROWN,  
POLICE OFFICERS, SUBJECTS,  
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA;  
Character: MICHAEL CRONIN - VICTIM;  
DENIAL OF POLICE PROTECTION

Synopsis: CIVIL RIGHTS

Victim MICHAEL CRONIN, located and interviewed at Boston, Mass., 12/16/69, furnished information re beating he received in York, Pa., on 7/30/69 from unknown assailants. He stated he did not observe York Police in area at the time and thus he cannot say that he was denied police protection. CRONIN pointed out that a York, Pa. Police Officer, who came upon scene after his assailants left, assisted him and saw that he obtained hospital treatment.

- RUC-

DETAILS:

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.

Date 12/17/69

Mr. MICHAEL CRONIN, interviewed at the Boston Office of the FBI, advised as follows:

In July of 1969, he was employed as a reporter for the Gazette and Daily, York, Pennsylvania, and had been so employed for a little over one year. Around the latter part of July, a series of racial incidents occurred in York. During this period, snipers operated in the white neighborhood of North Newbury Street and, in fact, a black woman was killed in that area around the same time.

CRONIN stated that he tried to conduct interviews among the various black groups during this period, but was unsuccessful. He therefore decided to talk to the people in the North Newbury Street area. After talking to several residents in the area, he approached a group of youths who were congregated there and they volunteered information as to what had taken place during the previous few days. CRONIN stated that the group of young people were all boys in their early or mid-teens and he believes they are known as the "North Newbury Street Gang."

The following day he had a story in the Gazette and Daily concerning the North Newbury Street incidents, and the racial situation generally.

A few days later, in the evening, on July 30, 1969, he was sitting with two girls on the steps of their house at 316 West Market, a few doors from his residence at 308 West Market. He decided to go up the street and get some beer and bring it back to the girls. When he got up the street a short way, he passed a group of about five males, one of whom appeared to be in his late thirties, and the other four were teenagers. After he passed the group, they began following him. One of the men walked around in

On 12/16/69 at Boston, Massachusetts File # Boston 44-779  
by SA(A) JOHN C. CONNORS and SA GARRETT J. PAXTON, JR. JCC:nrg - 2 - Date dictated 12/17/69

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2.

BS 44-779

front of him and struck him in the face, knocking him down and causing his eyeglasses to fall to the ground. The others then began kicking him about the head and body. He went into a state of semi-consciousness and he recalled that his assailants fled as he heard what he thought were shots, and it seemed to him that his assailants were being chased. At that time, Officer DENNY MC MASTERS of the York Police Department came to his side and assisted him and brought him to the hospital for medical attention.

CRONIN stated that he did not, at any time prior to the attack, or during the attack, observe any officers from the York Police Department in the area. He pointed out that the first officer he saw was Officer MC MASTERS who came to his aid and saw to it that he received hospital treatment for his injuries.

CRONIN advised that he is aware that one FRED FLICKINGER made the statement in Federal Court, in connection with a suit against the police department, that he had witnessed the beating and that police officers stood by and refused to interfere. CRONIN emphasized that he did not see any police officers around during the incident wherein he was beaten, and that therefore he cannot say that he was denied police protection.

CRONIN noted that he has covered the police beat for the Gazette and Daily in York in the past and that generally his relations with the police officers have been good. He stated that some of the officers, however, consider that the Gazette and Daily is a leftist newspaper and thus have been critical of him, but he has not been subjected to any physical abuse or denial of rights.

FOIA(b)(6)  
FOIA(b)(7) - (C)

3.

BS 44-779

CRONIN furnished the following description:

Name:	MICHAEL CRONIN
Date of Birth:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 226px; height: 23px;"></div>
Place of Birth:	Duluth, Minnesota
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	245 pounds
Hair:	Brown, full beard
Eyes:	Green
Complexion:	Medium
Military Service:	None

FOIA(b)(6)  
FOIA(b)(7) - (C)



Education: Graduate,  
Michigan State University

CRONIN advised that he would rather not furnish his Boston address inasmuch as he does not desire to be contacted further. He noted, however, that he plans to enter the Graduate School at Northeastern University in Boston to pursue a Masters Degree in English.

F B I

Date: 12/16/69

Transmit the following in PLAIN  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (MAIL) AND  
SAC, BOSTON

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-1197)

9-1  
2-1  
3-1 EW

9-10/

(FNU) SHELLEY, (FNU) BROWN, POLICE OFFICERS, SUBJECTS;  
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA; MICHAEL CRONIN-VICTIM; DENIAL OF POLICE  
PROTECTION, CIVIL RIGHTS

RE DETROIT AIRTEL TO BUREAU, DECEMBER TWELVE, LAST.

MICHAEL CRONIN, VICTIM IN CAPTIONED MATTER, TELEPHONICALLY  
CONTACTED FBI RESIDENT AGENCY, SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN, H  
THIS DATE AND ADVISED HE IS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN ROOM SIX TWO  
FIVE, HOTEL BEACON CHAMBERS, BOSTON, MASS. CRONIN STATED HE  
WOULD CONTACT FBI BOSTON THIS DATE.

BOSTON HANDLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN  
REFERENCED DETROIT AIRTEL.

PHILADELPHIA ADVISED BY AM.

RUC

44-44139-4  
DEC 18 1969

REC-28

1 - Bureau (MAIL)  
1 - Philadelphia (AM)  
NER/cc  
(3)

54 DEC 29 1969

Approved: R

Special Agent in Charge

Sent 4:22/P

M

Per RB

FBI

Date: 12/12/69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Walters	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Soyars	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Detroit (44-1197)

(FNU) SHELLEY,  
 (FNU) BROWN,  
 Police Officers,  
 Subjects;  
 York, Pennsylvania;  
 MICHAEL CRONIN - Victim  
 DENIAL OF POLICE PROTECTION  
 CIVIL RIGHTS

Re Philadelphia airtel to Bureau, dated 12/8/69.

Mrs. FRED CRONIN, 101 Hazelton, St. Ignace, Michigan, mother of victim MICHAEL CRONIN, advised on 12/11/69, that MICHAEL CRONIN had left St. Ignace, Michigan, via privately owned automobile 12/4/69 en route to Boston, Mass., where he will be seeking employment. Mrs. CRONIN stated that she does not have an address for MICHAEL CRONIN but would probably hear from him in a few weeks as he is expecting a salary check from his former employer in York, Penn. Mrs. CRONIN stated that when her son's address is learned she will notify the Detroit Division of the FBI.

For the information of the Boston Division, there are enclosed for Boston one copy of referenced airtel dated 12/8/69, letter from the Director to Philadelphia dated 12/4/69 and letter from JERRIS LEONARD, AAG, to the Director, dated 12/3/69.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)  
 1 - Philadelphia (44-1707) (Info) (RM)  
 1 - Boston (Enc. 3) (Info) (RM)  
 2 - Detroit  
 MFC/cc  
 (6)

REC-30

18 DEC 16 1969

58 DEC 22 1969

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge



DE 44-1197

LEAD:

DETROIT

AT ST. IGNACE, MICHIGAN

Will maintain contact with Mrs. FRED CRONIN, 101  
Hazelton, for address of the victim, MICHAEL CRONIN.

F B I

Date: 12/8/69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via A I R T E L \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (44-1707)

SUBJECT: (FNU) SHELLEY,  
(FNU) BROWN,  
Police Officers,  
Subjects;  
York, Pennsylvania  
MICHAEL CRONIN, Victim;  
Denial of Police Protection  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Re Bureau airtel, 12/4/69.

Enclosed for Detroit are two copies each of referenced Bureau airtel and letter dated 12/3/69 from JERRIS LEONARD, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, to the Director.

MICHAEL CRONIN, victim, left his employment with the Gazette and Daily Newspaper on 11/30/69 and went to 101 Hazleton Street, St. Ignace, Mich., possibly leaving there in the near future to seek employment in Boston, Mass.

Detroit interview per Bureau instructions.

2-Bureau  
2-Detroit (Enc. 4)-  
1-Philadelphia (44-1707)

JWD:tac  
(5)

EX-105

REC-128

44-44139-2

DEC 10 1969

54 DEC 23 1969  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

12/4/69

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, Philadelphia

1 - Mr. Boyd

FROM: Director, FBI

ALLEGED CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS  
ARISING FROM RACIAL DISORDERS AT  
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA DURING JULY, 1969

*MICHAEL C. RONIN*

Enclosed are requests for five separate preliminary investigations received from the Department which incidents allegedly occurred during the racial disorders in York, Pennsylvania, in July, 1969. The victims mentioned in the Department's letters are of both the Negro and white races.

According to a Departmental Attorney a civil suit was filed in USDC Harrisburg by various Negro citizens in York, Pennsylvania, against the York Police Department. The plaintiffs are represented by one Peter Hearn who is reportedly an attorney with the Philadelphia law firm of Pepper, Hamilton, and Scheetz. The Department has reviewed a transcript of the civil suit which reportedly consists of over a thousand pages of testimony and from this review it has selected the five incidents as possible violations of the Civil Rights Statutes and has accordingly requested preliminary investigations.

Conduct the requested investigations and surep within ten days of receipt of this communication. Advise appropriate officials at the outset and all persons interviewed that investigation is being conducted at the specific request of AAG Jerris Leonard, CRD, USDOJ, Washington, D. C. Handle pursuant to Section 27, Volume II, Manual of Instructions. Indicate at the beginning of the details in your report that it is a preliminary investigation. Submit results under separate captions.

Enclosures - 10

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Walters \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JJB:jd  
(4)

DEC 15 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

NOT RECORDED

183 DEC 5 1969

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.....

44137 - 1  
ORIGINAL FILED IN 44 -

NOTE:

Racial disturbances began in York, Pennsylvania, on about 7/17/69, and continued for approximately five or six days thereafter. The police established a curfew and attempted to seal off two areas of the town. There were numerous reports of indiscriminate shooting by whites and blacks but it is not believed that very many of the persons responsible for the shooting have been identified.

Robert Murphy, CRD, advised on 12/3/69, that the Department reviewed testimony given in a civil suit filed by Negroes seeking an injunction against the York, Pennsylvania Police Department and the Department picked five incidents which may be violations of the Civil Rights Statutes and requested preliminary investigations. In three incidents it is alleged victims were struck by gun fire from police officers. In another, the victim was allegedly beaten by police following arrest. In the fifth instance a white newspaper man, Michael Cronin, was reportedly beaten on 7/30/69, by a gang of white youths because he had written unfavorable articles concerning them. A witness reported that police officers observed the beating and made no attempt to stop it. This denial of protection could constitute a violation of Civil Rights Statutes.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# Memorandum

TO : Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: DEC 3 1969

JL:RAM:ca

FROM : Jerris Leonard  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

DJ 144-63-NEW

SUBJECT: FNU Shelley, FNU Brown,  
Police Officers, Subjects;  
York, Pennsylvania  
Michael Cronin, Victim;  
Denial of Police Protection  
CIVIL RIGHTS

On July 30, 1969, a gang of white youths allegedly beat the victim because he had written unfavorable newspaper articles in the York Gazette and Daily concerning their gang's activities. The beating occurred near Doll Pontiac in the 300 block of West Market Street in York. According to Fred Flickinger, 508 West King Street, York, a witness to the beating, the subjects sat in a police car and observed the beating and did not attempt to stop it until other people in the area began to gather. Flickinger also said that subject Brown later admitted to him that his and Shelley's inactivity had been intentional.

This denial of police protection constitutes possible violations of 18 U.S.C. 241 and 242.

Please conduct a preliminary investigation.

ST 104

REC-25  
REC 16

14- 44139-1

DEC 5 1969

Rosen  
McDonough

STX

EXP. PROC.  
DEC 8 1969  
31

66

63 DEC 15 1969